

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication system, comprising:

a base transceiver station engaged in wireless communication with a first mobile unit and carrying data being transmitted between the first mobile unit and a second mobile unit; and

an other communication device in communication with the base transceiver station, wherein one of the base transceiver station and the other communication device are dynamically selected, by a selection procedure, to perform a call anchor function for the data, the selection procedure comprising determining a communication characteristic comprising at least one of:

a traffic characteristic of the data, and

a characteristic of wireless communication between the base transceiver station and at least one of the first and second mobile units.

2. A system according to claim 1, wherein the selection procedure further comprises:

using the communication characteristic to determine a wireless savings amount comprising an amount of wireless resource savings associated with performing the call anchor function by the other communication device;

using the communication characteristic to determine a backhaul cost amount comprising an amount of backhaul resource cost associated with performing the call anchor function by the other communication device;

selecting the other communication device if the wireless savings amount exceeds the backhaul cost amount; and

selecting the base transceiver station if the backhaul cost amount exceeds the wireless savings amount.

3. A system according to claim 1, the selection procedure being performed for a first communication session, thereby generating a first selection result, the selection procedure being further performed for a second communication session, thereby generating a second selection result, and the first and second selection results being independent from each other.

4. A system according to claim 3, wherein the selection procedure is performed exactly once for at least one of the first and second communication sessions.

5. A system according to claim 3, wherein the selection procedure is performed at least twice for at least one of the first and second communication sessions.

6. A communication system, comprising a base transceiver station engaged in wireless communication with a first mobile unit and performing the steps of:

carrying data being transmitted between the first
5 mobile unit and a second mobile unit; and
performing a call anchor function for the data.

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7. A method for communicating, comprising:

using a base transceiver station to engage in
wireless communication with a first mobile unit;

5 using the base transceiver station to carry data
being transmitted between the first mobile unit and a
second mobile unit;

using an other communication device to communicate
with the base transceiver station;

10 determining a communication characteristic
comprising at least one of:

a traffic characteristic of the data, and

a characteristic of wireless communication
between the base transceiver station and at least one of
the first and second mobile units; and

15 using the communication characteristic to
dynamically select one of the base transceiver station
and the other communication device to perform a call
anchor function for the data.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the step of using the communication characteristic comprises:

using the communication characteristic to determine a wireless savings amount comprising an amount of wireless resource savings associated with performing the call anchor function by the other communication device;

using the communication characteristic to determine a backhaul cost amount comprising an amount of backhaul resource cost associated with performing the call anchor function by the other communication device;

selecting the other communication device if the wireless savings amount exceeds the backhaul cost amount; and

selecting the base transceiver station if the backhaul cost amount exceeds the wireless savings amount.

9. A method according to claim 7, the step of using the communication characteristic being performed for a first communication session, thereby generating a first selection result, the step of dynamically selecting being further performed for a second communication session, thereby generating a second selection result, and the first and second selection results being independent from each other.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of using the communication characteristic is performed exactly once for at least one of the first and second communication sessions.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of using the communication characteristic is performed at least twice for at least one of the first and second communication sessions.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the step of using the communication characteristic is performed at least twice for at least one of the first and second communication sessions.

12. A method for communicating, comprising:

- using a base transceiver station to engage in wireless communication with a first mobile unit;
- using the base transceiver station to carry data being transmitted between the first mobile unit and a second mobile unit; and
- using the base transceiver station to perform a call anchor function for the data.

13. A communication system, comprising:

means for engaging in wireless communication
with a first mobile unit, the means for engaging in
wireless communication comprising means for carrying data
transmitted in a communication session between the first
mobile unit and a second mobile unit;

means for communicating with the means for
engaging in wireless communication;

means for determining a communication
characteristic comprising at least one of:

a traffic characteristic of the data, and
a characteristic of wireless communication
between the means for engaging in wireless communication
and at least one of the first and second mobile units;
and

means for using the communication
characteristic to dynamically select one of the means for
communicating and the means for engaging in wireless
communication to include means for anchoring the
communication session.

14. A system according to claim 13, wherein the means for using the communication characteristic to dynamically select comprises:

5 means for using the communication characteristic to determine a wireless savings amount comprising an amount of wireless resource savings associated with performing the call anchor function by the other communication device;

10 means for using the communication characteristic to determine a backhaul cost amount comprising an amount of backhaul resource cost associated with performing the call anchor function by the other communication device;

15 means for selecting the other communication device if the wireless savings amount exceeds the backhaul cost amount; and

means for selecting the base transceiver station if the backhaul cost amount exceeds the wireless savings amount.

15. A system according to claim 13, wherein the means for using the communication characteristic to dynamically select comprises:

first means for generating a first anchoring
5 means selection result for a first communication session;
and

second means for generating a second anchoring
means selection result for a second communication
session, the first and second anchoring means selection
10 results being independent from each other.

16. A system according to claim 15, wherein at
least one of the first and second means for generating
generates exactly one anchoring means selection result.

17. A system according to claim 15, wherein at
least one of the first and second means for generating
generates at least two anchoring means selection results.

18. A communication system, comprising means for engaging in wireless communication with a first mobile unit, the means for engaging in wireless communication comprising:

5 means for carrying data transmitted in a communication session between the first mobile unit and a second mobile unit; and

 means for anchoring the communication session.

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19. A computer-readable medium having a set of instructions operable to direct a processor to perform the steps of:

using a base transceiver station to engage in
5 wireless communication with a first mobile unit;

using the base transceiver station to carry data being transmitted between the first mobile unit and a second mobile unit;

using an other communication device to communicate
10 with the base transceiver station;

determining a communication characteristic comprising at least one of:

a traffic characteristic of the data,

a characteristic of wireless communication
15 between the base transceiver station and at least one of the first and second mobile units; and

using the communication characteristic to dynamically select one of the base transceiver station and the other communication device to perform a call
20 anchor function for the data.

20. A computer-readable medium according to claim 19, wherein the step of using the communication characteristic comprises:

5 using the communication characteristic to determine a wireless savings amount comprising an amount of wireless resource savings associated with performing the call anchor function by the other communication device;

10 using the communication characteristic to determine a backhaul cost amount comprising an amount of backhaul resource cost associated with performing the call anchor function by the other communication device;

15 selecting the other communication device if the wireless savings amount exceeds the backhaul cost amount; and

selecting the base transceiver station if the backhaul cost amount exceeds the wireless savings amount.

20 21. A computer-readable medium according to claim 19, the step of using the communication characteristic being performed for a first communication session, thereby generating a first selection result, the step of dynamically selecting being further performed for a second communication session, thereby generating a second selection result, and the first and second selection results being independent from each other.

25 22. A computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein the step of using the communication characteristic is performed exactly once for at least one of the first and second communication sessions.

23. A computer-readable medium according to claim 21, wherein the step of using the communication characteristic is performed at least twice for at least one of the first and second communication sessions.

24. A computer-readable medium having a set of instructions operable to direct a processor to perform the steps of:

using a base transceiver station to engage in
5 wireless communication with a first mobile unit;

using the base transceiver station to carry data being transmitted between the first mobile unit and a second mobile unit; and

using the base transceiver station to perform a call
10 anchor function for the data.

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25. A communication system, comprising:

a first network;

a gateway connecting the first network to a second network;

5 a mobile unit;

a base transceiver station engaged in wireless communication with the first mobile unit and carrying data being transmitted between the first mobile unit and a second mobile unit, the base transceiver station being in communication with the first network; and

10 an other communication device in communication with the first network, wherein one of the base transceiver station and the other communication device is dynamically selected, by a selection procedure, to perform a call anchor function for the data, the selection procedure comprising determining a communication characteristic comprising at least one of:

a traffic characteristic of the data, and

15 a characteristic of wireless communication between the base transceiver station and at least one of the first and second mobile units.

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26. A system according to claim 25, wherein the selection procedure further comprises:

5 using the communication characteristic to determine a wireless savings amount comprising an amount of wireless resource savings associated with performing the call anchor function by the other communication device;

10 using the communication characteristic to determine a backhaul cost amount comprising an amount of backhaul resource cost associated with performing the call anchor function by the other communication device;

selecting the other communication device if the wireless savings amount exceeds the backhaul cost amount; and

15 selecting the base transceiver station if the backhaul cost amount exceeds the wireless savings amount.

27. A system according to claim 25, the selection procedure being performed for a first communication session, thereby generating a first selection result, the selection procedure being further performed for a second communication session, thereby generating a second selection result, and the first and second selection results being independent from each other.

25 28. A system according to claim 27, wherein the selection procedure is performed exactly once for at least one of the first and second communication sessions.

30 29. A system according to claim 27, wherein the selection procedure is performed at least twice for at least one of the first and second communication sessions.

30. A communication system, comprising:

a first network;

a gateway connecting the first network to a second network;

5 a first mobile unit;

a base transceiver station connected to the first network and engaged in wireless communication with the first mobile unit, the base transceiver station performing the steps of:

10 carrying data being transmitted between the first mobile unit and a second mobile unit, and

performing a call anchor function for the data.